

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 19 and 21 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and amend the claims as shown below. The claims, as currently pending in the application, now read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ A method of allocating at least one service by a first peer to a second peer, the first and second peers being linked by means of a computer communication network, said first and second peers belonging respectively to a first and second group of peers adapted to share data, comprising the steps of:

evaluating a distance between said first and second peers, wherein said distance between said first and second peers is a distance in a graphic of peers;

selecting by said first peer (~~E~~) a service supplied by said first peer (~~E~~), said service being selected according to the evaluated distance; and

allocating said selected service to said second peer.

2. (Currently Amended) The Allocation method according to claim 1, wherein the evaluation step comprises a step of receiving a notification sent by a central server in said computer communication network, said notification comprising ~~the~~ a value of said distance and an identifier of said second peer on the computer communication network.

3. (Currently Amended) The Allocation method according to claim 1, wherein the evaluation step comprises a step of reading ~~the~~ a value of said distance

associated with said second peer amongst a list of associations of peers and [[of]] distances.

4. (Currently Amended) The Allocation method according to claim 1, wherein the evaluation step comprises a step of receiving an electronic ticket sent by said second peer, comprising an identifier of said second peer and the distance between the first and second peer.

5. (Currently Amended) The Allocation method according to claim 1, wherein, at the step of selecting a service, said service is chosen from amongst a set of associations consisting of a service and a distance.

6. (Currently Amended) The Allocation method according to claim 5, wherein said set of associations is bounded by a threshold value.

7. (Currently Amended) The Allocation method according to claim 1, wherein the shared data ~~can be~~ is represented at ~~several~~ multiple resolution levels, and said services to be allocated correspond to various resolution levels of the data to be shared between a first group and a second group of peers.

8. (Currently Amended) The Allocation method according to claim 7, wherein the shared data are digital images.

9. (Currently Amended) The Allocation method according to claim 1, wherein the shared data are compressed digital images to the JPEG 2000 format, and said services to be allocated correspond to various levels of visual quality of the data to be shared between a first and second group of peers.

10. (Currently Amended) A device ~~Device~~ for allocating at least one service by a first peer to a second peer, the first and second peers being connected by means of a computer communication network, said first and second peers belonging respectively to a first and second group of peers adapted to share data, the device comprising:

evaluation means for evaluating a distance between said first and second peers, wherein the distance between the first and second peers is a distance in a graph of peers;

selecting means for selecting by said first peer ~~(E)~~ a service supplied by said first peer ~~(E)~~, said service being selected according to the evaluated distance; and

allocating means for allocating said selected service to said second peer.

11. (Currently Amended) The Allocation device according to claim 10, wherein the evaluation means comprises means for receiving a notification sent by a central server in said computer communication network, said notification comprising ~~the~~ a value of said distance and an identifier of said second peer on the computer communication network.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~The Allocation~~ device according to claim 10, wherein the evaluation means comprise means for reading ~~the~~ a value of said distance associated with the said second peer amongst a list of associations of peers and distances.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~The Allocation~~ device according to claim 10, wherein the evaluation means comprise means for receiving an electronic ticket sent by said second peer, comprising an identifier of the second peer and the distance between the first and second peers.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~The Allocation~~ device according to claim 10, wherein the selecting means ~~for selecting a~~ selects the service ~~according to a distance~~ cooperate with from amongst a set of associations consisting of a service and a distance.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~The Allocation~~ device according to claim 10, ~~wherein the device is incorporated in~~ further comprising:

a microprocessor;

a read only memory adapted to store a service allocation program; and

a random access memory comprising registers adapted to store variables during the execution of said program.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~The Allocation~~ device according to claim 10, wherein the device is incorporated in a terminal in a computer communication network.

17. (Currently Amended) A computer comprising the device according to claim 10 ~~Computer allocating at least one service by a first peer to a second peer, the peers being linked by means of a computer communication network, said first and second peers belonging respectively to a first and second group of peers adapted to share data, said computer comprising:~~

~~means for evaluating a distance between said first and second peers;~~

~~means for selecting by said first peer (E) a service supplied by said first peer (E), said service being selected according to the evaluated distance; and~~

~~means for allocating said selected service to said second peer.~~

18. (Currently Amended) A communication ~~Communication~~ network comprising the device according to claim 10 ~~allocating at least one service by a first peer to a second peer, the peers being linked by means of said communication network, said first and second peers belonging respectively to a first and second group of peers adapted to share data, said communication network comprising:~~

~~means for evaluating a distance between said first and second peers;~~

~~means for selecting by said first peer (E) a service supplied by said first peer (E), said service being selected according to the evaluated distance; and~~

~~means for allocating said selected service to said second peer.~~

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) ~~A Computer-executable program stored on a computer-readable storage medium on which is stored a computer-executable program able to be read by a microprocessor, comprising portions of software code adapted to implement the service allocation method according to claim 1, when it is loaded in and executed by the microprocessor~~ that, when executed by a computer, performs a method of allocating at least one service by a first peer to a second peer, the first and second peers being linked by means of a computer communication network, said first and second peers belonging respectively to a first and second group of peers adapted to share data, the program comprising the steps of:

evaluating a distance between said first and second peers, wherein said distance between said first and second peers is a distance in a graphic of peers;

selecting by said first peer a service supplied by said first peer, said service being selected according to the evaluated distance; and

allocating said selected service to said second peer.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently Amended) The ~~allocation~~ method according to claim 5, wherein said set of associations consisting of a service and a distance is stored in a table on said first peer.